GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3866
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
State Pollution Control Boards
Singh Shri Raj Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Pollution Control Boards have not been effective as regulators and heavily polluting industries are functioning without let up or hindrance and discharging harmful effluents in the water and in the atmosphere;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the State Pollution Control Boards are plagued by corruption and inefficiency at the decision making level and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring about reforms and structural changes to ensure effective regulation and effective implementation of the Environment Protection and Pollution Control Laws and if so, the details and time frame in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)&(b) No, Sir. State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) were constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and are discharging their duties as mandated under the said Act and Rules. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and SPCBs / PCCs are also the implementing agencies under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and rules notified therein. SPCBs / PCCs maintain close vigil on quantity / quality of effluent & emissions being discharged by polluting industries. Based on the compliance with stipulated norms, Consent to operate is granted to industries and in case of non-compliance, action under the provisions of the prevalent Acts is taken by SPCBs / PCCs.

(c) SPCBs / PCCs are under the purview of the State Governments / UT administrations concerned which discharge their duties as mandated under the said Act and Rules. Appropriate action to tackle corruption in the SPCBs / PCCs is taken by the State Government concerned.

(d) A number of measures have been initiated/taken for effective implementation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which inter-alia include installation of online effluent/emission monitoring system, adopting Zero Liquid Discharge/water conservation in water intensive industries, adoption of other state of the art technologies, notification of stricter standards of emission and effluent discharge, issuance of directions by CPCB, setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality, financial assistance for Common Effluent Treatment Plants etc.

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